HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry into unused equipment lying in the Sucheta Kripalani Hospital, New Delhi has since been completed; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the persons found responsible for such lapses, by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Mobile dispensaries for rural areas

*136. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce mobile dispensaries for the rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Mobile dispensaries can provide health care facilities only as a temporary measure. The policy and programme in this respect is to provide health services in rural areas by providing a net work of sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres to cover the rural population adequately.

Amount spent on Hockey team sent to Seoul and London

*137. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent on the training of the Hockey team which was sent to the Tenth Asian Games at Seoul and the World Cup Hockey held in London;

(b) whether Government have recently received any complaints against the Director, National Institute of Sports, Patiala in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in 1978 Government made a move to replace the present Director, National Institute of Sports, Patiala; if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala has indicated that an amount of about Rs. 3.50 lakhs was spent by the Institute on the training of the hockey team which went to Seoul for X Asian Games and for VI World Cup at London. Besides, an amount of about Rs. 2.21 lakhs was spent on sending the team abroad for participation in international tournaments prior to X Asian Games.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In 1978, the SNIPES Board appointed a Selection Committee to recommend a person for the post of Director of the Institute. After interviewing candidates and considering the offer of Shri R. L. Anand to opt for permanent absorption in the

Institute as Director, the Committee recommended his appointment. Government then approved of this recommendation keeping in view his past performance as Director, Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports and his qualifications and experience in the field of sports coaching and training. Subsequently, in 1983, the SNIPES Board renewed his contract for a further period of 3 years from 1st December, 1983.

Nicotine not a cause of cancer

*138. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn o a news item published in 'Statesman' of 21st July, 1986 wherein it has been stated that not nicotine but Tobacco Specific Nitrosamines is the main agent involved in causing cancer, as per researchers at Cancer Research Institute; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to remove the statutory warning to his effect from the advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The finding, that nicotine *per se* is not tumorogenic and that during the processing, burning and ingestion of tobacco nicotine, through a process of nitrosation ,changes into TSNAS (Tobacco Specific Nitrosamines) which is carcinogenic, does not in any way conflict with the statutory warning that "Smoking is injurious to Health".

Death of Neurosurgery patients in AIIMS

*139. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about fifty per cent of the patients of neurosurgery in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS) New Delhi, die before they get appointment with doctors;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard pertaining to 1984, 1985 and 1986 so far; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Every patient who comes to seek a consultation in Neurosurgery Department is examied in the OPD which is held three times a week. No patient is refused consultation. Patients coming to casualty are seen immediately.

With the limitation of the existing facilities it is, however, not possible to admit all those requiring hospitalization. They are given appointments ranging between 4 weeks to 12 weeks depending upon the seriousness of the disease. It has been noticed that approximately 75 per cent to 85 per cent of these patients report for admission on the scheduled dates. Out of the remaining, some seek admission in other hospitals of Delhi where neurosurgical facilities are available. It is possible that a few patients who do not report back to the Institute might have died. The figures of such deaths are not available.

Action has been initiated to expand the existing facilities. The Neuro-sur-